

PARENTS FLAG/EDMONTON

NEWSLETTER

NOVEMBER '92

OCTOBER NOTES

AIDS Awareness Week was at the beginning of October. Cindy, Robin, and Steve all participated in the Walk for Life which raised funds to be used for AIDS awareness and support for those living with HIV and AIDS. The guest speaker for the October meeting was Peter Pratt from the AIDS Network of Edmonton. Peter gave a very informative talk about HIV and AIDS.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED: For the last few months, Cindy has been opening and closing the building for our meetings, making the coffee and making sure everything is cleaned up after. We need volunteers to take responsibility for some of these chores. It could be done on a rotational basis. The volunteer will have to commit to attendance at the meeting for which these duties are being undertaken. This will be discussed at the next meeting.

THE NEXT MEETING

WILL BE HELD

7:30 pm, TUESDAY, NOVEMBER 17, 1992

AT

(For information phone Lynne at [REDACTED])

COMING EVENTS

- Nov. 10 PFLAG members speak to GAYLOC (Gays and Lesbians on Campus). Those interested in participating phone Joan at [REDACTED]
- Nov. 17 Regular Meeting.
There will not be a guest speaker at this meeting. Some time will be spent on business, plans for our annual December social, and the remainder of the meeting will be general discussion and sharing.

REPORT FROM OREGON

During the last two months David and I have become increasingly involved in the battle against Oregon's Ballot Measure 9. This measure, which will be voted on by the citizens of Oregon on Nov. 3, has been put forward by the Oregon Citizens Alliance, a far-right political group. It is a proposed amendment to the Oregon Constitution that would mandate discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation. The full text of the initiative is:

This state shall not recognize any categorical provision such as "sexual orientation", "sexual

preference", and similar phrases that includes homosexuality, paedophilia, sadism or masochism. Quotas, minority status, affirmative action, or any similar concepts, shall not apply to these forms of conduct, nor shall government promote these behaviours.

State, regional, local governments and their properties and monies shall not be used to promote, encourage, or facilitate homosexuality, paedophilia, sadism or masochism.

State, regional and local governments and their departments, agencies and other entities, including specifically the State Department of Higher Education and the public shcools, shall assist in setting a standard for Oregon's youth that recognizes homosexuality, paedophilia, sadism and masochism as abnormal, wrong, unnatural, and perverse and that these behaviours are to be discouraged and avoided.

It shall be considered that it is the intent of the people in enacting this section that if any part thereof is held unconstitutional, the remaining parts shall be held in force.

The campaign to vote YES on this measure is being run on fear and misinformation. They are saying homosexuality is a choice and, if the measure is defeated, homosexuality will be "taught" in the schools. People are frightened to come out against the measure in case they are "perceived to be promoting homosexuality". Gays are particularly fearful of being identified. Not being residents of the state and not having our lesbian daughter in the state means that David and I are able to be active and speak out without jeopardizing ourselves or loved ones. One thing that this campaign of fear has made us realize is the need for education and understanding about homosexuality. The time to educate people is before someone starts a campaign based on ignorance, stereotypes and fear of the unknown. One ray of hope is that the mainline churches, teachers, librarians, politicians, unions and many other organizations have come out against the measure. In spite of that, there is still a real fear that this repressive and regressive measure will be passed.

CONGRATULATIONS

To Michael Phair for his election victory in the aldermanic fight in Ward 4. Michael is the first openly gay man to be elected in a political race in Alberta. We wish him well as he takes up his position in the next month.

MEMBERSHIP

Eight households have now paid their '93 membership. If you are not among those eight, you can use the enclosed form to send in your dues.

MEMBERSHIP APPLICATION

INDIVIDUAL MEMBERSHIP \$15 _____

HOUSEHOLD MEMBERSHIP \$25 _____

DONATION \$ _____

Make Cheques Payable to P-FLAG/Edmonton and Mail to:
Cindy [REDACTED]
[REDACTED]

Name _____ Date _____
Address _____ Phone _____
City _____ Prov. _____ Code _____